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REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 3, 2007, has been carefully considered together with each of the references cited therein. The amendments and remarks presented herein are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration of the present Application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim Status

Claims 1 – 3 and 5 – 10 are pending in the subject Application. By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Consequently, the claims under consideration are believed to include Claims 1 – 3 and 5 – 10.

Claim Objections

Claim 1 is objected to because of informalities. By this Amendment, Applicant has deleted the "or" in line 12 after formula (I), and deleted one of the phrases, "with the proviso that at least one of the substituents R₅, R₆, R₇, R₈, or R₉ is different from H," as proffered by the Office. Applicant respectfully overcomes these objections and courteously requests that Claim 1 be allowed.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant respectfully overcomes this rejection.

Applicant has amended Claim 1, by deleting the phrase "which means" and the subsequent limitations as proffered by the Office. Applicant thereby courteously believes the §112, second paragraph, rejection has been overcome and respectfully requests that currently amended Claim 1 be allowed.

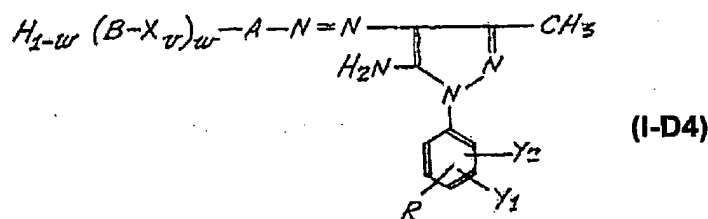
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Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1 – 3 and 6 – 10 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over GB 1413315. This rejection is respectfully overcome.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to more distinctly point and clarify the subject matter of the claimed invention. More particularly, Applicant has amended Claim 1 to delete $-\text{SO}_2\text{R}$ as a substituent at positions R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 , R_9 , and has amended Claim 2 to delete $-\text{SO}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{-OH}$, as a substituent at positions R'_5 , R'_6 , R'_7 , R'_8 or R'_9 .

With respect to GB-A-1 41 3 315, it relates to fiber reactive azo dyes of the general formula (I-D4)



which are used to color leather and wool, silk, synthetic polyamide, polyurethane and, in particular, cellulose fibers, by reactive dyeing processes. In each and every occurrence R is a fibre reactive group in the dyes of the general formula (I-D4). Since R_5 , R_6 , R_7 , R_8 or R_9 of newly amended Claim 1 and since R'_5 , R'_6 , R'_7 , R'_8 or R'_9 of newly amended Claim 2 may not be a fiber reactive group, Applicant respectfully believes that a fiber reactive dyestuff according to formula I-D4 of GB-A-1 41 3 315 does not teach, suggest or hint of an acid dyestuff according to formula (I) or (I') of the present application. Consequently the acid dyestuff according to formula (I) or (I') of the present application would not have been obvious to a skilled artisan cognizant of GB-A-1 41 3 315.

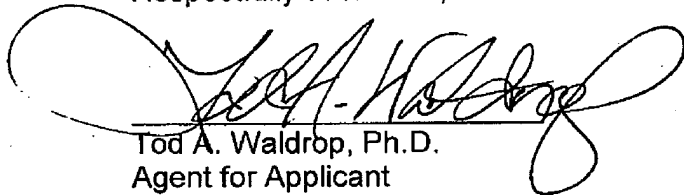
For at least the foregoing reason, Applicant is of the courteous position that the § 103 rejection has been overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103 rejections is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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As the total number of claims does not exceed the number of claims originally paid for, no fee is believed due. However, if an additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee deficiency to Deposit Account No. 03-2060.

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, the present Application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and reconsideration of it is requested. If the Examiner disagrees, she is requested to contact the agent for Applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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